

Art Museum



“There are so many things I enjoy about working at the Museum - being able to work directly with the art and helping to share the Museum’s great collection with the public are just a couple. I like to think that through my job I make this community a better place.”

- Kirk Eck
Special Assistant to the Director







The mission of the Wichita Art Museum, Inc. is to preserve, collect, and promote American Art to engage the public in the understanding of America's evolving artistic cultural heritage.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Successfully reopened the expanded and renovated Museum.
- Received national and international press attention in such publications as The Art Newspaper (London, England), Time Magazine, and The Wall Street Journal, presenting the City of Wichita as a cultural destination.
- Successfully outreached to diverse segments of the community through the creation and implementation of an interactive exhibition. Participating agencies included: Senior Services, Rainbows United, Roots & Wings Inc., Urban League, Child Care Association, and Inter-Faith Inn.

DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES

- Distinguish the collections, exhibitions and programs by their quality, impact and appeal.
- Project a compelling identity for the Museum and use it to increase attendance – *by establishing itself as a place where people want to go and feel welcome, the Museum can boost attendance, which is a key measure of the Museum's local regard and impact.*
- Stabilize the Museum financially, both in terms of income and expense and prepare it to meet future needs.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Serve 100,000 people, including gallery visitors, Teacher Resource Center users and web-site hits. By showing people that the Museum is an engaging and fun place to be for a variety of social and cultural experiences, the Museum will continue to position itself as a year-round destination and center of community life where there is always something exciting to see and do.
- Present at least one major loan exhibition featuring art of international significance, such as the glass screens of Frank Lloyd Wright, per year, initiating a community-wide festival around a theme, thus providing incentive for tourists to visit Wichita, stay in its hotels, and eat in its restaurants.
- Present at least two smaller exhibitions, from either WAM's collection or other sources, each year, focusing on Kansas related themes.
- Increase the number of teachers who utilize Museum resources, tours, and workshops.
- Increase knowledge of the Teacher Art Resource Center by advertisement, mailing and speaking at local and regional meetings.
- Obtain more local regional and national media attention, promoting the Museum as an attraction where both Wichita citizens and tourists feel welcome.

OVERVIEW

The Wichita Art Museum's expanded mission is to provide a safe and acclimatized environment for the storage, conservation and respectful display of the permanent collection as well as borrowed/loaned works of art. Acquisitions to the collection are selected to enhance and expand the context and understanding of American art. Publication, exhibitions and scholarships promote the Museum and its collection to the community, state and nation. Audiences are engaged through tours, lectures, interactive spaces and a variety of public programs.

The Wichita Art Museum (WAM) is the largest art museum in Kansas and contributes to the cultural vitality of life in Wichita. Exhibits include selections from the permanent collection of more than 7,000 artworks. Along with a large collection of paintings, the Museum offers a rich selection of sculptures, work on paper, drawings, and decorative arts. The collection of American masterpieces reflects the richness and diversity of

American culture from colonial times to the present and includes artworks by artists like Edward Hopper, Marry Cassatt, Winslow Homer, Thomas Eakins and many others. The Art Museum hosts visiting exhibits from across the country three to four times per year.

Museum staff works closely with volunteers to present a vigorous educational program. The public enjoys "Stories in Art" sessions based on artwork in the Museum's galleries, educational videos and weekly gatherings for "Gallery Talks." WAM for Kids, located in the basement of the facility, is an educational and fun center for children of all ages and their parents. Each year more than 13,000 school children benefit from classroom visits, tours of exhibits and educational materials. In addition to those services, the Museum offers rental rooms for special events; a store with unique and interesting gifts; and a research library



including locally hard to find resources, auction records, and exhibition catalogues. Many volunteers contribute by providing policy leadership as board members, conducting tours, raising funds to supplement City support, and working directly with professional staff to serve the public. The Wichita Art Museum's Art Library consists of 40,000 works, including 8,000 volumes, which augments the Wichita Public Library's material collection.



The newly expanded Wichita Art Museum is internationally recognized for collections of outstanding American Masterpieces.

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

The Wichita Art Museum is one of the foremost cultural resources in the region which can offer visitors the experience of original works of art that provide a comprehensive view of America's visual history. The collection, exhibitions, and programs allow the Museum to increase patronage and gain national recognition. The Museum serves the state's largest city, the surrounding region, and the Great Plains. The Museum is responsible for caring for the existing collection, acquiring new works of art, engaging audiences with relevant programming, and maintaining the safety of our visitors.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

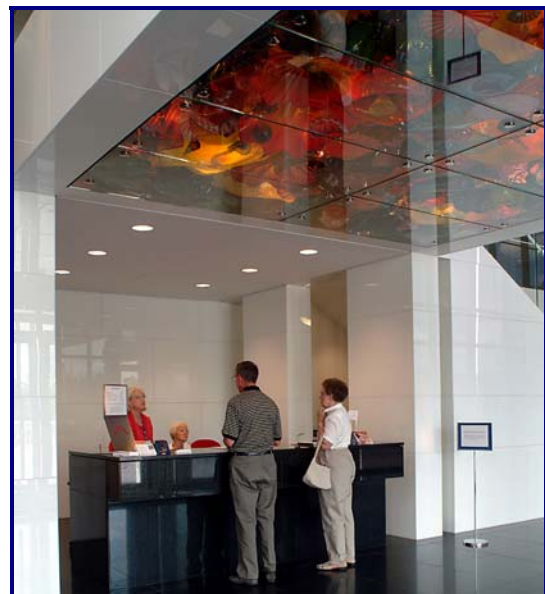
The Wichita Art Museum receives an annual subsidy from the City to support operating costs. Additional funds are provided by private donations. Besides the annual subsidy, the City also provides two Building Maintenance support staff and will enhance building security by adding two exterior security cameras to the existing security system in 2004 as additional operation support. Starting in 2003, WAM receives an additional annual subsidy from the City for the increasing operating expenses due to the expansion. An increase of \$40,000 is included in the 2004 and 2005 operating budget. The 2004 Revised budget also includes two position reclassifications.

The Museum's expansion was completed in June 2003 with the addition of 34,000 square feet. This expansion makes the Wichita Art Museum 115,000 square feet, larger than Exploration Place. With a 42 percent increase in size, there is

more space to exhibit premiere works of art as well as improved areas for the conservation, preservation, and storage of the art collection. The City's contribution toward the expansion was \$6 million of the total \$10.5 million project budget. Private contributions, including a contribution from the County, made up the remaining \$4.5 million in project costs.

The enhanced Wichita Art Museum features:

- A beautiful, visitor-friendly entrance.
- A 6,000 square foot Great Hall featuring an elegant work of art by internationally renowned artist, Dale Chihuly.
- An elevated restaurant with a wonderful scenic view overlooking the Arkansas River and the Museums on the River corridor.
- An enlarged space for special events.
- Double the number of parking spaces.



*Dale Chihuly (Am., b. 1941)
Wichita Art Museum Seaform Installation
Handblown glass, plate glass
WAM, F. Price Cossman Memorial Trust,
INTRUST Bank Trustee
©Dale Chihuly 2003*

FUTURE CHALLENGES

Two major challenges face the Wichita Art Museum, which are integral to all other operating aspects of the facility:

- Maintain community interest in and usage of the Museum by developing programming and exhibitions that will encourage repeat visits.
- Generate adequate funding (through both public and private support) to allow the Museum to remain fiscally sound without major reductions in the level of service provided to the public.



Wichita Art Museum Budget Summary

	2003	2004	2004	2005	2006
	Actual	Adopted	Revised	Adopted	Approved
Personal Services	944,880	1,058,020	997,720	1,076,850	1,112,900
Contractual Services	351,556	224,440	324,740	245,610	169,560
Commodities	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total Fund Expenditures	1,296,436	1,282,460	1,322,460	1,322,460	1,282,460
Total full-time positions	24	24	24	24	24
Total part-time positions	2	2	2	2	2
Total FTE positions	24.75	24.75	24.75	24.75	24.75

For additional information on the Art Museum Department visit www.wichitaartmuseum.org!



Wichita Art Museum

The largest art museum in Kansas, WAM houses one of the world's finest collections of American art, spanning three centuries of painting, sculpture, works on paper and decorative arts. Masterpieces by Charles Russell, Winslow Homer and Edward Hopper are among the 7,000 works in the permanent collection. The famed Murdock collection includes Mary Cassatt's Mother and Child. The Charles M. Russell Gallery displays 26 paintings, drawings, poems and bronzes by Russell, the frontier's most famous artist, and the Frederick Remington bronze, "Bronco Buster."

In 1995, to celebrate its 60th anniversary, WAM commissioned Tom Otterness, a native Wichitian and New York-based sculptor, to create an outdoor sculpture. Titled *Dreamers Awake*, the monumental bronze represents the universal struggles of the human experience. WAM for Kids, a 3,000 sq. ft. children's gallery, offers hands-on exploration for children of all abilities.